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Comments: For the Administrative Record, I am submitting the attached comment re: Appropriate Management Level and available forage.

Comment re: Appropriate Management Level

On page 3 of the Heber Wild Horse Territory Draft Management Plan, clearly cattle are being given priority over wild free-roaming horses within the Heber Wild Horse Territory. On page 3 of the Draft Plan, 483,063 pounds of available forage are being earmarked to possibly add more cattle in the future. By law, the Territory is [ldquo]devoted principally[rdquo] to the welfare of the horses. Earmarking available forage for more cattle in the future, while reducing the number of horses, is in violation of the 1971 Wild and Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act. Nothing in the Plan should involve benefiting cattle growers at the expense of the horses. The Plan needs to have an open door to actions favorable to the horses if conditions exist.

On Page 3, Under [ldquo]Appropriate Management Level[rdquo]:

[ldquo]the current obligation of 506,000 pounds of forage for permitted livestock use is still met, and there would be an additional 483,063 pounds of the available forage for wildlife (beyond that currently utilizing the area) or for future adjustments in the livestock grazing level.[rdquo]